

The evolving way in which large conglomerates now control the American news media is disturbing and dangerous. The diversity of opinion on our public airwaves constitutes our main line of defense against one-sided, one-dimensional reporting. It informs the people and supports our democracy.

Further, electioneering in the guise of "news" -- is something we associated with Pravda in the Soviet Union, not the United States. Sinclair's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is simply appalling.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.